

The Times.

THE TIMES COMPANY.

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SUNDAY, JULY 22, 1900.

SOME MEMORIES.

Yesterday was the anniversary of the first battle of Manassas, which instituted the greatest contest of arms that the world has ever known. Indeed, all other wars dwarf into petty bar-room brawls compared with it. Not that there was not sufficient blood letting in other wars, but this is the first and only war, fought as it was upon the Southern side by a population ready and willing to bare its breasts to any peril for the maintenance of an idea and a principle, and marching up to its duty in maintaining that idea, as no soldier ever stood in line of battle, and that accepted death with the heroism and the cheerful surrender to it that the Confederate soldiers did. The poetry of the struggle is coming more and more into view every day, and when one of these days a Macaulay shall write the story of the sacrifices and heroism of the men, women and children of the Confederacy, it will take its place among the epics of the world.

Fortunately the material for this story has been fully and carefully preserved. The United States Government has published all of the records of both sides and the entire history of the four years of the war is thus authentically preserved.

And it may be remarked here in passing that the greatest tribute that future historians will find to the glorious battles of the Confederate soldier and the genius of the Confederate generals will be taken from these records, prepared by the Government that won in that strife; and time will take from them the apotheosis of the Confederate soldier which they contain.

As we are upon this theme, it is quite in order to remark upon the ugly scene which took place at Atlanta on Thursday last, at the meeting of the Blue and the Gray. We have never favored unions of this kind, and the unlucky contretemps which occurred there, shows the unwisdom of them. General Shaw had no right to say that we must not teach our children that their fathers were right. If he had these sentiments in his mind he should never have attended the reunion, and General Gordon was perfectly right to enter his most positive protest against the sentiment. Others may think of our course as they please, but the Confederate soldier knows that he was right, and in justice to himself and to his children, he is going to teach them that he was right. This will always be said at all meetings of Confederate soldiers, and it is of itself a sufficient reason why there should be no reunion of the Blue and the Gray. Let the Federal soldiers have their reunions and celebrate the memories of their distinguished men as much as they please, but they must concede to us the similar privilege, and when they come to an old-time Confederate reunion, they may expect to hear things that will grate upon their feelings.

A REPLY.
In another column we print a letter referring to our editorial in last Sunday's paper called "Educational." Our correspondent asks the pointed question how we would suggest putting into operation the principle of centralization at the University of Virginia. "If," says our correspondent, "you cannot get the State to centralize and put the Virginia Military Institute, William and Mary and the University all together in one place, how can you expect the various denominations to give up their colleges for the benefit, say, of the University of Virginia?" It is true that we can give no answer to the question of how to get the State to centralize, for under the present system we believe that the Legislature is convinced that each of the separate State institutions to which our correspondent refers fills a place in the State life that could not be filled so well by one large institution. So long as the Legislature holds this opinion, and we see no sign of their changing, the State will continue to own and support a number of institutions, as at present. And we cannot ask with propriety that members of denominations who believe in the special needs of their own church, shall subscribe funds for a State institution in preference

to seeking the advantages of their own colleges. Were such a request made it would probably meet with no response, and the State institutions would go without aid from the individual who might, and probably would, help a college of his own denomination. But, because we do not see how to persuade donors of rich gifts to take our views of the wisest course for laying out his money, it does not follow that such action will not be taken, and, indeed, from all appearances, this is the inevitable course that is followed in educational growth.

The method works as follows: Some denominational college, for Harvard, Yale and Princeton all started as such, has the good fortune to get an able faculty, and some day finds itself with a few alumni whose public spirit makes them desire to help along their alma mater. These men found chairs, and make donations that attract more students. And the college grows in geometric ratio. Such has certainly been the case in the great Northern universities, where every effort has been made to accretuate and increase a love of the alma mater, and the desire to increase the power and efficiency of the college. We do not believe that with the growth of wealth in the South, the University of Virginia will find itself as much restricted in the matter of gifts and devises as it has been heretofore. Our correspondent must never forget the poverty of the men who have constituted almost the entire number of students in the University of Virginia, and who, since their departure, have been unable, rather than unwilling, to help along their alma mater. Much has been left undone that could have been done. Much has been attributed to poverty that more properly belongs to selfishness and laziness, but from whatever cause the University may have suffered in the past, we believe that she is destined to be the great university of the South, and in her will the aspirations of those who love education be centralized, not by the power of the State, but from the efforts of the individual.

HOT WEATHER AND CLEAR WATER.
In another column we print an interesting article that has been prepared for The Times especially by a doctor whose knowledge of bacteriology especially fits him to discuss this question. The article shows that the James River water is very healthy, and only needs a little cleansing to furnish our city with as good, or better, drinking water than that of any other city of the same size in America. If Mr. Tanner can get an appropriation of \$300,000 for building sedimentation basins and arranging for a basin in which some coagulant can be applied to the water when it is too muddy, to be otherwise used, he will have served

his city in a way that will be enjoyed, even if not remembered, by every citizen every day. Few men could have a finer opportunity, and we sincerely trust that the end of these efforts will not end in mud.

A CRUSHING OUT OF LIBERTY.
The freest spoken paper in Finland, The New Press, has been finally suppressed by Russia, and the Finns are to-day without any means of making their wants or cause known to the rest of Europe. The New Press got an intimation of the intended action of the Russian government and thereupon printed an editorial setting forth the historical relations of Russia to Finland, and protesting against this extinguishing of free speech by the Russian government. The editorial sets out the fact that Alexander the First, of Russia, after the war with Napoleon, acting in the capacity of hereditary Grand Duke of Finland, issued a proclamation on February 21st, 1810, in which he stated, first, that he had enjoyed with the highest satisfaction the unmistakable proofs of loyalty of his Finnish subjects, and says further, "We are convinced that the Constitution and laws which correspond with the sentiment, manners and education of the Finnish people for a long period of years, constitute the foundation of their good citizenship, peace and liberty, and could not without serious danger be abridged or altered."

In view of this the Emperor guaranteed to the Finns a continuance of this Constitution, and the right of self-government independent of all other power than that of the law, which was, as Ruier, practice ourselves. The Czar protested that he had but one desire, and that was to show for all time to come his regard for his Finnish subjects, and to seal the assurance that they received regarding the perpetuation of their special Constitution under the rules of ourselves and our successor, he added, "We further give the most powerful assurance that the members of this, our Finnish Senate, in the future, as well as heretofore, shall be selected only from native born or naturalized citizens."

In an editorial on this proclamation, which, as The New Press well knew, was its last public utterance of any sort, referring to the "noble-minded Emperor-Grand Duke's weighty words about the duty of the Senate to care for the management of the country," independent of all other power than law which we, as Ruier, ourselves practice," it says: "In and through these words, which, in all cases referred to, must be of conclusive weight, Alexander acknowledges that the power of the Monarch, and the parts thereof delegated to the Senate, are limited by law. In other words, he acknowledges that when one act or another is in contradiction to the requirements of the law, neither the Monarch nor the Senate, in the name of the Monarch, have the right to perform such an act."

"It is this understanding of justice that has hitherto prevailed, and which, by the help of God also, will prevail and be the guide in the future fate of our country. In the light of righteousness our people have always been living, and in this light they shall one day conquer as certainly as truth and righteousness shall prevail above all things."

Where can a more beautiful or touching appeal to truth and justice be found? It is no answer to say that the Finns are weak numerically, and have been overrun by the Russian power. They have grown up under a form of government that was essentially self-governing and free. They are brave, self-denying, liberty-loving, educated and filled with high resolves; they have, as a nation and a people, carried the standard in Northern Europe for national civilization.

We do not believe that any statecraft or diplomacy can be founded in justice or destined to endure that finds it necessary to stamp out the aspirations and the liberties of such a people, and they have our deep sympathy in their affliction.

TRADE BALANCES.
Some years ago when a cry went up from timorous Englishmen that the prosperity of England was doomed because they were obviously importing more than they were exporting, and that, therefore, the balance of trade must be against them, Mr. Bagehot, the celebrated statistician, made a short answer that could not fail to satisfy even the most fearful. His answer consisted in this: That there is no need to discuss the question of whether the English people have money enough invested in foreign property, from which they receive dividends, to balance the loss that by the laws of trade they are making every year, in that they import more than they export, for their income tax is steadily producing more revenue. "And if a man's or nation's income is yearly increasing, there is no use in protesting that he is growing poorer. Now, America is faced with a proposition that is also interesting, only ours is the reverse of the English proposition. The query with us is whether we are getting rich by our foreign trade, and if not, what is becoming of the big difference between our exports and our imports each year? This balance that is not accounted for amounts to some two or three hundred million dollars a year. Its non-payment is explained in many ways. One, that we are paying dividends in large quantities to foreign holders of American securities, and that a large portion of this balance is used to liquidate the sales made in America, of securities held abroad. It has, however, been pointed out in the last year, Wall Street shows no great liquidation of foreign-held securities. A large part of this sum is probably accounted for by the carrying charges of Great Britain, and the money spent abroad by American travelers. It will, however, be interesting to see what the balance in our favor will be this year, and how its non-payment will be accounted for. The total foreign commerce of the United States during the fiscal year for 1900, says the New York Evening Sun, will exceed by 16-2-3 per cent. that of any preceding year, being \$330,000,000 greater than that of 1899, which, up to that time, had been our record-breaking year for foreign commerce. The imports for 1900 increased largely, but they were especially of the class known as articles in a crude condition, which enter into the various processes of domestic manufacture. This means that America is advancing rapidly in the manufacturing field, and is importing the crude articles, which she later exports as manufactured products. One hundred million dollars increase in manufactured exports alone over the record-breaking year of 1899 shows with what

terrifying vigor America is forcing her way into the field for the world's trade. The imports of articles not produced in America, to be used by manufacturers in producing finished products, has shown a steady increase since 1890. Then articles of this class were 33 per cent. of all the importation. To-day they are 46 per cent., and out of the \$349,000,000 of imports \$160,000,000 were destined for use in our manufactures, and thereafter for exportation. The trade of this wonderful year has for the first time in the history of the country crossed the \$2,000,000,000 mark, and to sum it up in one sentence, as the Sun does, we may say the imports of the year increased \$182,000,000, of which increase two-thirds was in manufacturing raw materials, and the exports increased \$167,000,000, of which increase one-half was manufactured articles. With such glorious prospects of trade increase no wonder the American manufacturer and working man feels comforted.

CURRENT COMMENT.
The New York Sun quotes Major A. E. J. Marshall, British officer, who is supposed to be one of the best authorities on the subject, as follows:

"On paper the Chinese army is divided into three lines: the regular army, reserves under arms, and the reserves between sixteen and sixty years of age who are trained for only a few days each year. The regulars and reserves under arms are what may be termed the Imperial standing army, and are reckoned at 60,000 cavalry and \$4,000 infantry and artillery. Major A. E. J. Marshall, a British officer, who is perhaps one of the best authorities on the subject, recently prepared a memorandum containing the following details: The fighting force of the Chinese army is divided into three lines: the regular army, reserves under arms, and the reserves between sixteen and sixty years of age who are trained for only a few days each year. The regulars and reserves under arms are what may be termed the Imperial standing army, and are reckoned at 60,000 cavalry and \$4,000 infantry and artillery. Major A. E. J. 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